

Aurora Veterans Advisory Council Minutes

Date: June 9, 2021

Meeting #91

Call to Order The Chair, Mr. Hart, called the meeting to order at 5:35

Pledge of Allegiance Mr. Hart lead the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moment of Silence A Moment of Silence was observed.

Roll Call Six members (a quorum) and the COA Liaison were in attendance. Those in attendance were Mr. Bruce Cairns, Mr. Jose Cervantes, Mr. Randy Fisher, Mr. Will Hart, Mr. Ken Leask, Mr. Josh Pfeuffer and Ms. Alex Voigt (COA)

Adoption of Rules on Public Comment Ms. Voigt presented a draft of "Rules of Public Comment." After discussion the rules were approved in a motion by Mr. Pfeuffer and seconded by Mr. Cairns.

Acceptance of previous Minutes (May 12, 2021) The May Minutes were approved in a motion by Mr. Cairns and seconded by Mr. Leask. They will be sent to the COA to be kept in an electronic file available to Council members and the public.

Public Comments None

Treasurer's Report

Scholarship Fund \$0.00 Council Fund \$16,701.74

Assistance Fund \$31,079.77 Brick Fund \$1181.91

Service Dog Fund \$84, 152.65

Scientel Solutions and their golf outing has raised approximately \$50,000 for the Service Dog Fund and will be sending AVAC a check. The City of Aurora is sending AVAC \$5,000 for the 2021 contribution to the Scholarship Fund. Hopefully they will also be sending the same amount to AVAC to cover the 2020 scholarships.

Committee Reports

Scholarship Fund – (see above)

AVAC Web/Social Media No report – chair of the committee was not present

Service Dogs Fund Mr. Pfeuffer reported that we might have a candidate for a service dog. The veteran lives in Naperville.

Memorial Bricks Fund Mr. Spivey is absent and the bricks have been ordered but not installed. We will postpone the small ceremony until August.

Assistance Fund Mr. Fisher has talked with each of the four county Superintendents and they are looking for candidates who live in Aurora.

Mr. Pfeuffer understands that “Hope for Tomorrow”, an Aurora non-for-profit agency, that provides therapeutic as well as shelter for adults with substance abuse issues. One of their houses is just for veterans and that house lost its air conditioner this week. After discussion Mr. Pfeuffer made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Cairns and passed unanimously to offer “Home for Tomorrow” up to \$10,000 for a new AC and heating system.

COA Liaison Report Ms. Voigt reports that the City is re-examining their Board and Commission structures. They are also looking at attendance. Non-attendance will be looked at with current members. The size of some groups might be reduced. She asked about the possibility of having members of the council who are related to Veterans but not a veteran themselves. A member raised the issue that veteran member must have an honorable discharge to serve on the Council.

Old Business

Memorial Bricks (see Memorial Brick Funds above)

AVAC Coins Mr. Hart said Ms. Alvarez was drafting a design to consider.

Plaque for Chuck Mr. Cairns is working on this.

Dogs for Vets Mr. Leask asked that Dr. Davis, a veterinarian who teaches and does research at Aurora University, to join our discussion about dogs and veterans. This is no way a substitute for the Service Dog project. Dr. Davis is confident that the dog shelter and other groups would be interested in working together on this project. Participating veterans would have new companionship while training the puppies. They would develop new skills and foster a feeling of accomplishment. Training would be in groups as well as individual sessions. Dr. Davis will continue exploring opportunities for this project.

New Business (see Assistance for Veterans page 2)

Announcements / Good of the Order None

Next meeting is July 14th

Adjournment The motion to adjourn was made at 6:40 p.m. by Mr. Leask and seconded by Mr. Cervantes and passed unanimously.